

Application Number 10/816,378
Amendment dated November 20, 2007
Response to Office Action mailed August 22, 2007

REMARKS

This amendment is responsive to the Office Action dated August 22, 2007. Applicant has amended claims 1, 4, 7, 18, 19, 25, 27, 30, 33, 36, 37, 47, 54, 57, and 60 and cancelled claims 2, 3, 26, 31, 32, 55, and 56. Claims 1, 4-25, 27-30, 33-54, and 57-75 are pending.

Allowable Subject Matter

In the Office Action, the Examiner indicated that claims 3-7, 24, 26-27, 32-36, 53, 56-60, and 74 are objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form, including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

In this amendment, Applicant has amended claims 1, 25, 30, and 54 to include all allowable subject matter. Specifically, independent claim 1, as currently amended, includes the limitations of claim 2 and claim 3. Independent claim 25, as currently amended, includes the limitations of claim 26. Independent claim 30, as currently amended, includes the limitation of claims 31 and 32. Independent claim 54, as currently amended, includes the limitations of claims 55 and 56. Consequently, independent claims 1, 25, 30, and 54 and the claims dependent therefrom (respectively, claims 4-24, 27-29, 33-53, and 57-75) are in condition for allowance.

Claim Rejection Under 35 U.S.C. § 102

In the Office Action, the Examiner rejected claims 1-2, 8-10, 23, 25, 28, and 30 under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by Assa et al. (US 2002/0176358). However, because Applicant has amended independent claims 1, 25, 30, and 54 to include subject matter the Examiner indicated as allowable if not dependent on a rejected base claim. Applicant submits that this rejection is moot in view of the current amendments. Therefore, Applicant requests withdrawal of the rejection and prompt allowance of Applicant's claims.

Claim Rejection Under 35 U.S.C. § 103

In the Office Action, the Examiner rejected claims 11-19, 21-22, 29, 31, 37-48, and 50-52 under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Assa et al. in view of St. John (US 2002/0136200). The Examiner rejected claim 20 under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable

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over Assa et al. in view of St. John. The Examiner rejected claims 54-55, 61-64, 66-73, and 75 under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over St. John in view of Sarkinen et al. (US 7,099,275). The Examiner rejected claim 65 under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over St. John in view of background. However, because Applicant has amended independent claims 1, 25, 30, and 54 to include subject matter the Examiner indicated as allowable if not dependent on a rejected base claim, Applicant submits that this rejection is moot. Therefore, Applicant requests withdrawal of the rejection and prompt allowance of Applicant's claims.

CONCLUSION

All claims in this application are in condition for allowance. Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration and prompt allowance of all pending claims. Please charge any additional fees or credit any overpayment to deposit account number 50-1778. The Examiner is invited to telephone the below-signed attorney to discuss this application.

Date:

By:

November 20, 2007

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